

1. A method of authenticating a shipping transaction, comprising the steps  
2 of:
  - 1 providing a smartcard and a smartcard reader;
  - 2 acquiring biometric information and shipping information relating to a customer;
  - 3 encrypting the shipping information using the biometric information, and storing
  - 4 the encrypted result on the smartcard and in a shipping database;
  - 5 providing the smartcard to the customer so that the customer may access the
  - 6 database and change shipping information; and
  - 7 if an item is shipped to the customer, requesting the customer to supply the
  - 8 biometric information to authorize the transaction.
2. The method of claim 1, wherein the biometric information is a fingerprint.
3. The biometric information act as a private key (identity-based encryption).
4. The method of claim 1, wherein the shipping information includes the  
2 identity of the customer.
5. The method of claim 1, wherein the shipping information includes a  
2 shipping address.
6. The method of claim 1, wherein the shipping information includes an  
2 alternate shipping address.
7. The method of claim 1, wherein the shipping information includes a  
2 telephone number or other customer contact information.
8. The method of claim 1, wherein the shipping database is remote and  
2 accessed through a cell phone, land line, or Internet-connected computer.

9. The method of claim 1, wherein the result is also encrypted using a private key and a company public key.

10. The method of claim 1, further including the step of storing identity-based encrypted (IBE) data on the smartcard.

11. The method of claim 1, further including the step of storing a customer address on the smartcard.

12. The method of claim 1, further including the step of storing a phone number on the smartcard.

13. The method of claim 1, further including the step of storing a public key on the smartcard.

14. The method of claim 1, further including the step of storing a fingerprint on the smartcard.

15. The method of claim 1, further including the step of storing a private key on the smartcard.

16. The method of claim 1, further including the step of storing a company public key.